

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-30 and 32 are pending in this application. Independent claims 1, 11, 21 and 29 are amended to recite a protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:25. Support for these amendments can be found in paragraphs [0119] and [0133] of the specification and previously presented claims 8, 9, 18, 24 and 30. Dependent claims 19, 23-25 and 32 are amended to be consistent with the independent claims. Claims 8, 10, 18, 20, 26-28 and 30-31 are hereby canceled.

Paragraph [0200] is amended herein to correctly state that one of the nucleic acid bases given in the paragraph is “inosine” instead of “inositol”. It is believed this is an obvious typographical error, and additional support can be found in SEQ ID NO: 8 through SEQ ID NO:10 in the sequence listing which correctly recites “inosine”.

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed on May 14, 2008, the Examiner divided the claims into eight groups and required election of one of the groups. Groups 1- 8 are defined below.

Group I, claims 1-9, drawn to method of fostering somatic competence in plant using pro-embryogenic arabinosylated (AGP) protein comprising SEQ ID NO: 25.

Group II, claims 1-8, 10, drawn to method of fostering somatic competence in plant using AGP protein comprising SEQ ID NO: 26.

Group III, claims 11-19, drawn to method of regenerating plant using AGP protein comprising SEQ ID NO: 25.

Group IV, claims 11-17, 20, drawn to method of regenerating plant using AGP protein comprising SEQ ID NO: 26.

Group V, claims 21-25, 27, drawn to AGP protein comprising SEQ ID No: 25.

Group VI, claims 21-23, 26, drawn to AGP protein comprising SEQ ID No:26.

Group VII, claims 29-30, 32, drawn to production of AGP protein comprising SEQ ID NO: 25.

Group VIII, claims 29-30, 32, drawn to production of AGP protein comprising SEQ ID NO: 26.

Applicants hereby elect Group V, claims 21-25 and 27, drawn to an AGP protein comprising SEQ ID NO:25. Claim 21 is amended herein to recite a protein comprising the amino acid of SEQ ID NO:25 or a thrombin digest thereof, and claims 23-25 are amended to depend from claim 21.

Applicants request that Groups I, III and VII (drawn to methods comprising a protein of SEQ ID NO: 25) be included with Group V. As amended, all of the remaining claims have a special technical feature in common, namely a protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 25. This protein is not disclosed in the prior art and therefore defines a contribution over the prior art. Accordingly, it is believed that the Restriction Requirement should be reconsidered and all of the remaining claims examined.

Conclusion

It is believed that this submission does not require the payment of any fees. However, if this is incorrect, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 07-1969.

Respectfully submitted,

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